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of the *Publishers' Weekly*, described the methods used for Religious Book Week in March, 1921, and promised a further development of the idea for next year.

The interest displayed by the attendance of one hundred and twenty-five and by the persons taking part in the discussion led to an expression of opinion that next year's session also be devoted to RELIGIOUS BOOKS IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The meeting closed with the disposal of business. The minutes of the Colorado Springs meeting were approved, and the following officers were elected: President, Andrew Keogh, Yale University Library; Secretary, Mrs. Mabel E. Colegrove, Newark Public Library.

ELIMA A. FOSTER,

Secretary.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS ROUND TABLE

The Round Table on Library Buildings met on Tuesday, June 21, and was in charge of Willis K. Stetson, librarian, Free Public Library, New Haven, Conn.

Edward L. Tilton, architect, of New York City, spoke in answer to the following questions: 1. Should the plan of a library building provide that practically all the departments for adults should be on the main floor, and in case of the smaller libraries also the administrative offices and workrooms, (a) for reasons of economy in the number of attendants required, (b) for the convenience of the users of the library, (c) increased ease and efficiency of administration resulting from concentration of most of the staff on one floor? 2. Should all structural partitions be omitted when possible, (a) in order to allow an equitable and desirable division of space originally between the different departments and activities, (b) rearrangement of space as might be desirable later, (c) economy in the number and salaries of staff needed? His answer in general was in the affirmative. Partitions are needed when noise must be shut out, and when in the workrooms odors such as come from the use of hot glue, for example, must be excluded. For partitions book cases often serve acceptably. It is a simple matter to put in any partitions whenever and wherever they may be needed. In the matter of heating, no trouble arises in case of large rooms, as, if the windows and walls of the room are heated, the interior must also become heated. As to supervision, aid can be given by use of mirrors, as in

a branch of Elizabeth, N. J., Public Library, the children's room on the ground floor is under observation from the main floor, an area being left open on the main floor and a mirror properly placed. One room at right angles to another could be under observation by means of a mirror in the corner.

Children's rooms may be placed in the basement, although the danger of dampness must be guarded against.

The book stack should be placed in the basement, at the same time having as many books as possible on open shelves on the main floor.

Put books in the dark and the people in the light. The reverse has been true as a rule. The T-shaped plan in which the stack room is in the stem of the T gives the best lighting to the books. It is usually darker at the delivery desk. A rectangular building is better and cheaper to build than the T-shaped. There is a limit in his opinion to the economy in salaries by having one floor only.

Mr. Tilton also answered affirmatively the following question: Can a competent library adviser and a competent architect working freely together produce at a reasonable cost a building eminently satisfactory both from the standpoint of utility and beauty? He remarked that the qualifying adjectives should be regarded.

In answer as to the tendency to put glass partitions on the top of bookcases reaching to the ceiling, he replied that it was about "fifty-fifty." Arthur L. Bailey, of Wilmington Institute Library, Wilmington,

Del., showed the plans of their proposed building. The site of the building is 90 by 210 ft. The building will be rectangular about 80x190 ft. All the departments for adults and the administration offices and cataloging rooms are on the main floor. The only permanent partitions are those inclosing stairways and vestibule. The entrance is at the middle of the longer side. The delivery desk is immediately opposite the entrance and back of it are the fiction cases. The delivery room is 70 by 28 ft. One end of the main floor is occupied by the periodical reading room, 36 by 44 ft., and on one side of this room is the cataloging room, 17 by 44 ft., and on the other side the librarian's office also 17 by 44 ft. These rooms are shut off by book cases.

The other end of the main floor is occupied by the reference room, one portion for reading tables is 70 by 44 ft., the other part contains a book stack which will be two tiers in height. Each tier is to be seven shelves high. Hiller C. Wellman of the Springfield, Mass., City Library Association and Dr. Bernard Steiner of Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, spoke in favor of book cases nine shelves high, as they increased the book capacity greatly. Mr. Wellman stated that a continuous step along the front of the book case made it easy to reach the books on the top shelves. This step does not make a wider aisle necessary between the book cases. In the Wilmington plans it is proposed to have a mezzanine floor above the librarian's office and the cataloging room for book cases. The main floor has a 20 ft. height of ceiling.

The storage book-stack is below the main floor and will be two tiers high. Stairs near the delivery desk lead down into the stack. The children's room, 70x44 ft., is in the basement, but the slope of the ground puts it mostly above ground.

On the upper floor are the Howard Pyle memorial room and the art rooms. There

is also an auditorium 50 by 44 ft. and smaller rooms, including staff room and rest room on the upper floor. A great many questions were asked during the explanation of the plans. Some regarding lighting were answered by Clement W. Andrews of the John Crerar Library, Chicago. He advocated the Siplexlite made by the General Electric Co. as very efficient, though not handsome in appearance. For table lighting he said the Eye Comfort light gave the softest light. Hiller C. Wellman was asked to speak of the plan of the Springfield library. He remarked that the principles of the plan were so similar to those of the Wilmington plans that it was not necessary to speak of them in detail. One special feature was the provision for over 100,000 volumes in a two-tier radial stack in the reference room. It had been found desirable to have this larger number for use in reference, but the most of them circulate. J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., architect, of Boston, spoke at some length on the great desirability of having books on open shelves, and especially of provisions for considerable privacy and comfort for those who wanted to read books in the library building. He knew that to secure this end the building would be somewhat larger and more costly, but he laid much stress on the desirability of it.

Mr. Wellman mentioned a compromise in this matter adopted in the Springfield library where reading tables were placed near the windows at the ends of the book case.

No one present made any remarks in criticism of the principles of the plans of the Wilmington and Springfield libraries.

Copies of a list of questions prepared by the chairman were distributed. It was announced that a digest of the answers received would probably be made.

WILLIS K. STETSON,
Chairman.